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he *State of the Environment Report 2000* provides valuable information on the quality of our environment and the progress we have made.

But this report by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management also reveals the challenges that are ahead. That's where you come in.

We all are positioned to make significant improvements not only to the quality of our state's environment but also to Hoosiers' quality of life — improvements that will benefit not only ourselves but also generations to come.

Nearly 40 years ago, Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* jolted America's environmental conscience and we responded positively. Our state's environment — and our nation's — are much improved as a result.

But much work remains. There is no better time to renew our commitment to the environment than the new beginning offered by the new century and millennium.

Just as Rachel Carson showed us, one person can make a difference. Environmental responsibility begins at the grassroots level: in the homes, farms, schools and factories where we Hoosiers — nearly six million of us — live, work, learn and play.

I encourage each of us to commit to making a difference for Indiana's environment — starting in our own backyards.

Sincerely,

Frank O'Bannon

Frank O'Bannon
Governor

